

**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM**  
**SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE, DRUG POLICY AND HUMAN RESOURCES**  
**MARK E. SOUDER, CHAIRMAN**



**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**For Immediate Release**  
**April 10, 2003**

**Contact: Nick Coleman**  
**(202) 225-2577**

**Drug Policy Subcommittee To Hold**  
**Field Hearing in El Paso, Texas**

***“The Impact of the Drug Trade on Border Security:  
Field Hearing in El Paso, Texas”***

**What: Government Reform Subcommittee public hearing to explore the impact of the drug trade and the status of law enforcement along the Texas/New Mexico-Mexico border.**

**Where: Chamizal National Memorial, 800 South San Marcial Street, El Paso, Texas**

**When: Tuesday, April 15, 2003, 9:30 a.m.**

**Background:**

Since the summer of 2001, the Subcommittee has conducted an in-depth study of the status of law enforcement and security at our nation's borders and ports of entry, holding field hearings at a number of ports and border regions – culminating in the publication of the Subcommittee's Report on border issues (*Federal Law Enforcement at the Borders and Ports of Entry: Challenges and Solutions*, H. Rpt. 107-794), which can be found on the Government Printing Office's website, at [http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=107\\_cong\\_reports&docid=f:hr794.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=107_cong_reports&docid=f:hr794.pdf). This hearing will focus particular attention on the problem of cross-border drug smuggling on the Texas and New Mexico border. Recent incidents, including the shooting of a U.S. Border Patrol agent last year, illustrate the severe problems this smuggling poses. Questions have been raised about the ability of federal law enforcement agencies to deal with narcotics smugglers and other criminals, including in our national parks. This hearing will seek to address those and other related issues.

**Witnesses:**

**Mr. Luis Barker**, Chief Patrol Agent, El Paso Sector, U.S. Border Patrol;  
**Mr. Frank Deckert**, Superintendent, Big Bend National Park, National Park Service;  
**Mr. Sandalio Gonzalez**, Special Agent in Charge, DEA (El Paso Division);  
**Mr. David Longoria**, Interim Port Director, El Paso Port of Entry, Bureau of Customs & Border Protection;  
**Mr. Carlos Leon**, Chief, El Paso Police Department; and  
**Mr. Leo Samaniego**, Sheriff, El Paso County Sheriff's Department

###